

## U.S. Scores East Germany on Arrests

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—The State Department denounced today East Germany's jailing of two American citizens. The department said that the movie showed a "blatant disregard" for individual rights and that the United States was "exercizing every effort" to get the two men released.

One of the Americans, Ronald Weidenhoeft, a Columbia University art instructor, was arrested last month. The freelance photographer and art student, was convicted an espionage charges.

The East German press service said Mr. Feinauer, who had been living in West Berlin with his mother, was convicted in a secret trial of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency and sentenced to 15 years in prison. East Germany has not made public any charges against Mr. Weidenhoeft.

In response to questions, Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, denied

the espionage charge. Neither man had been on any Government assignment, he said.

Government officials said they were at a loss to explain

the two arrests except to note that both men, in connection with their art studies, had apparently been taking pictures in East Berlin.

Mr. McCloskey said that Mr. Weidenhoeft had been held incommunicado for a month and that no explanation had been given for his detention.

In a prepared statement, Mr. McCloskey said the American Government regarded his detention "as a blatant disregard of the rights of an individual, as we do the similar prolonged detention of Peter T. Feinauer."

State Department officials said Mr. Feinauer was arrested on Oct. 7, 1966, and had without specific charge for nearly a year, longer than any other American arrested by the East Germans.

Officials said one reason for the strong statement today was to put pressure on East Germany not to handle the second arrest as it had the first.